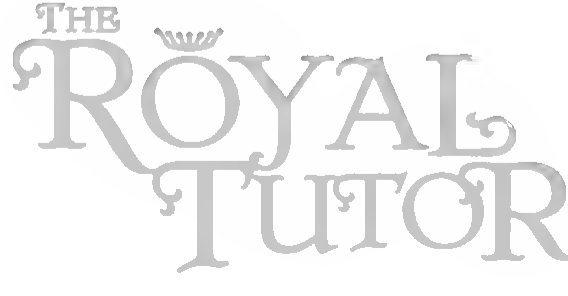
Chapter
36
Higasa
Akai
THE
ROYAL
TUTOR

Chapter 36
Return of the Black Prince
Welcome
to the Moonlit Soiree.


THE
ROYAL
TUTOR

MMN...
FATHER?
WHY DID YOU ASK TO SPEAK WITH US SO LATE AT NIGHT?
I APOLOGIZE FOR DISTURBING YOUR REST.
HOWEVER, I JUST RECEIVED A MESSAGE I WANTED TO SHARE WITH YOU.
...YOU SEE...

EINS...
...WILL BE VISITING THE PALACE TOMORROW MORNING.
.....
...WHA...?

OUR ELDEST BROTHER... WILL BE HERE...?

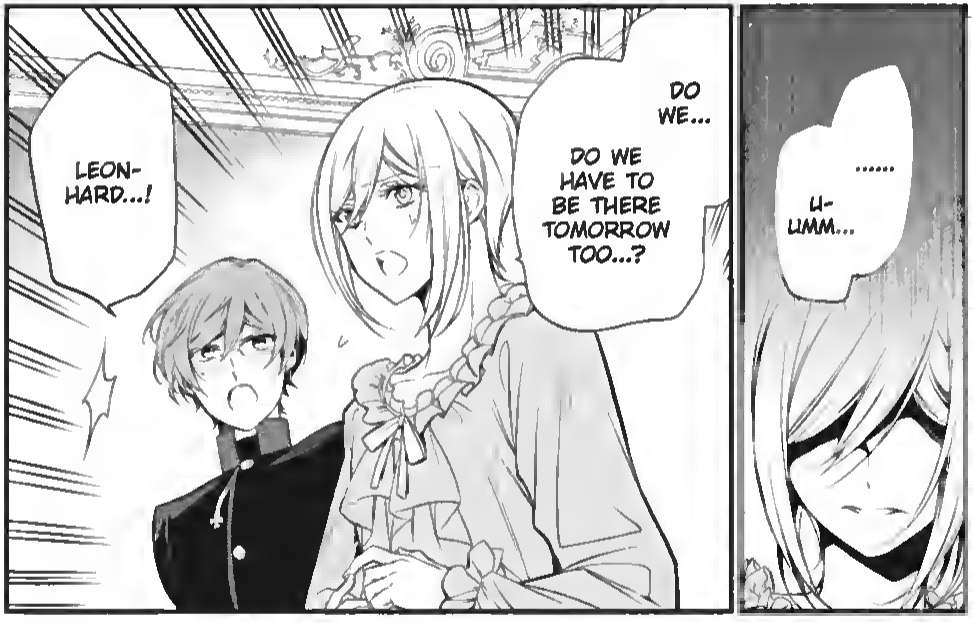
.....!

HE WILL COME HERE TOMORROW TO PRESENT HIS OFFICIAL REPORT. I WANT ALL OF YOU TO BE PRESENT WHEN HE ARRIVES TO GREET HIM TOGETHER.

ACCORDING TO THIS, HE HAS JUST RETURNED TO GRANZ-REICH.
YES. THESE PAST SIX MONTHS, HE HAS BEEN VISITING THE NATIONS WE CALL FRIENDS IN AN OFFICIAL CAPACITY.

HAZY
HAZY
A ROYAL REUNION ...

THE ROYAL FAMILY IS QUITE CLOSE.
I IMAGINE THERE WILL BE QUITE A TO-DO WHEN HE ARRIVES...
YOUR SOU-VENIRS ARE RIIIGHT HERE!
WAAAH!
BIG BRO
WELCOME HOOOME, DEAREST BROTHER EINS!


LEON-HARD...!
DO WE...
DO WE HAVE TO BE THERE TOMORROW TOO...?
.....
U-UMM...

HNNGH... BUT...
IT IS A DIFFERENT MATTER FOR ADELE, GIVEN HER AGE, BUT IT WOULD BE A FAUX PAS FOR US TO BE ABSENT.
IT IS THE HOME-COMING OF OUR ELDEST BROTHER.
!?

I THINK I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL.
...I GET SCARED AROUND HIM...
WELL... MORE LIKE NERVOUS, I GUESS...
ESPECIALLY SINCE WE LIVE APART THESE DAYS...
ON THE RARE OCCASIONS WE DO SEE HIM, IT'S EVEN HARDER TO THINK OF SOMETHING TO SAY...
...I...LIKE... EINS...
.....
HE IS OUR ELDER BROTHER. THEREFORE, WE SHOULD RESPECT HIM. IT'S...IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING.
IT IS NOT A MATTER OF "LIKE" OR "DISLIKE."
EVEN IF I OFTEN DON'T UNDERSTAND HIM...

IT WILL BE ALL RIGHT.
I'M SURE HE'LL BE PLEASED TO BE WELCOMED HOME.
BUT, I MEAN, IF HE'S ONLY COMING TO MAKE A REPORT OR SOMETHING...
...WE WON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO! WON'T WE JUST ANNOY HIM?
R... REALLY ...?
WOULD YOU BE PRESENT WHEN HE ARRIVES AS WELL, PROFESSOR?
AS A GROWN MAN, EINS LIVES IN HIS OWN RESIDENCE.
IT IS NOT FAR, BUT STILL, THERE ARE FEW OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET HIM. YOU SHOULD FORMALLY INTRODUCE YOURSELF.
...YES, YOUR MAJESTY.

G-GOOD NIGHT.
REST WELL.
...ALL THAT TO SAY, PLEASE GATHER HERE IN MY OFFICE BY EIGHT TOMORROW MORNING.
THANK YOU.
I HAVE A BOTTLE OF WINE SET ASIDE FOR YOU.
OH, AND...
...PROFESSOR HEINE, IF YOU WOULD JOIN ME IN MY OFFICE FOR A MOMENT?
WELL, THEN...
...YOU WISH TO SPEAK WITH ME?
SHUT
DON'T BE RUDE! HE'S A GROWN MAN.
TEACH CAN DRINK ALCOHOL HUH?
.....
VIKTOR...
OH, BUT IT WASN'T A LIE. I DO HAVE SOME WINE SET ASIDE, A VERY GOOD VINTAGE FROM NIEDER-GRANZREICH.
YOU READ ME LIKE AN OPEN BOOK, EH?

...WHAT KIND OF MAN IS PRINCE EINS?

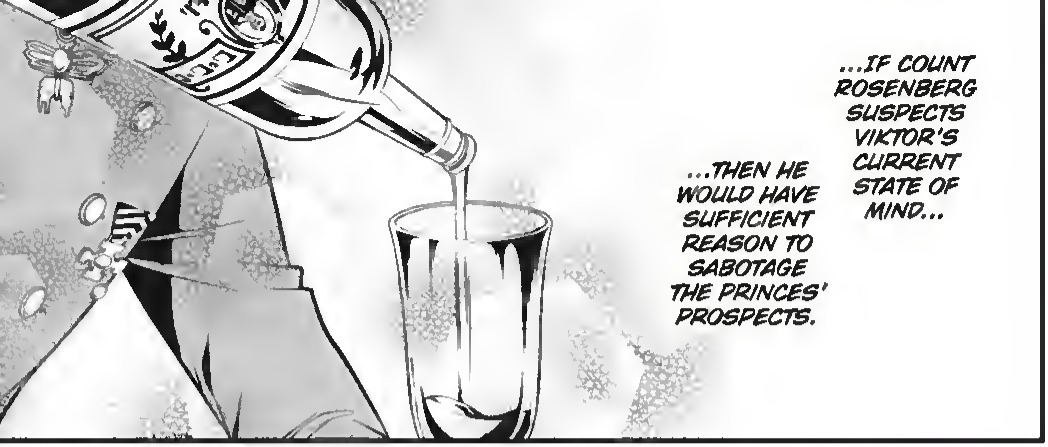
I HAVE HEARD THAT HE IS QUITE ACCOM-PLISHED...
...THE PERFECT CANDIDATE TO INHERIT THE THRONE.
HOWEVER, THE PRINCES DO NOT SEEM ENTIRELY EAGER FOR HIS RETURN.

TRUTH BE TOLD—
AND THIS IS SOMETHING I CAN SAY ONLY TO YOU, MY FRIEND...
THINK
コト

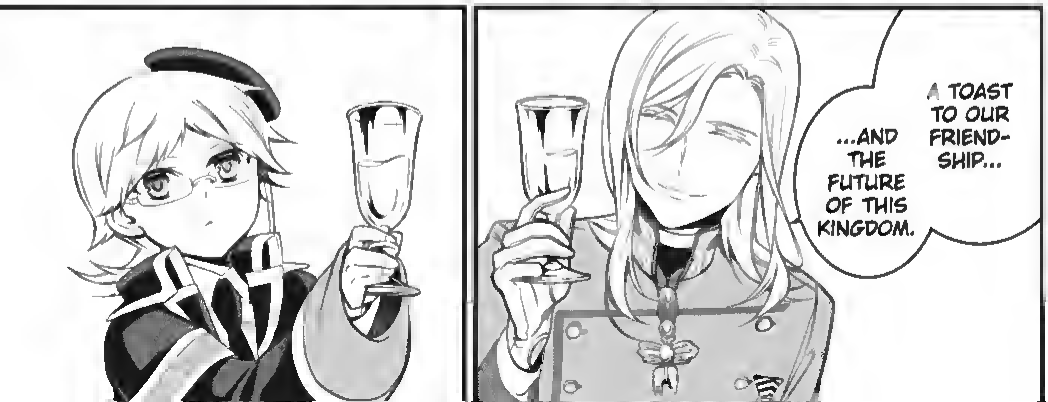
YES, WELL... I WOULDN'T SAY THEY ARE ON BAD TERMS, EXACTLY.
HOWEVER... PERHAPS IT IS DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO BOND WITH A BROTHER...
...WHO IS RATHER OLDER THAN THEM AND WHO SEEMS TO POSSESS SO MANY DESIRABLE QUALITIES.

THE WAY THINGS CURRENTLY STAND...
...I DO NOT CONSIDER EINS TO BE A FIT CANDIDATE FOR THE THRONE.
.....
...WHAT...?

AND SO, I PLACED MY HOPES IN YOUR HANDS.
THEY WERE NOT BEING GIVEN THE PROPER ENVIRONMENT TO BE GROOMED FOR KINGSHIP.
HOWEVER THE NEXT CANDIDATES IN LINE— HIS YOUNGER BROTHERS— SPURNED ONE ROYAL TUTOR AFTER ANOTHER.
.....
ALTHOUGH, IF ANY OF THEM ARE TO SUCCEED THE THRONE...
...I WILL NEED THEM TO WORK EVEN HARDER, OF COURSE!
NOW, THANKS TO YOUR TUTELAGE, MY PRINCELINGS ARE MATURING DAY BY DAY. I EXPECT GREAT THINGS FROM THEM.
?
NOTHING.
I TOO WILL INCREASE MY EFFORTS HENCEFORTH.
MURMUR
...THE COUNT...
COULD THIS BE WHY HE...?

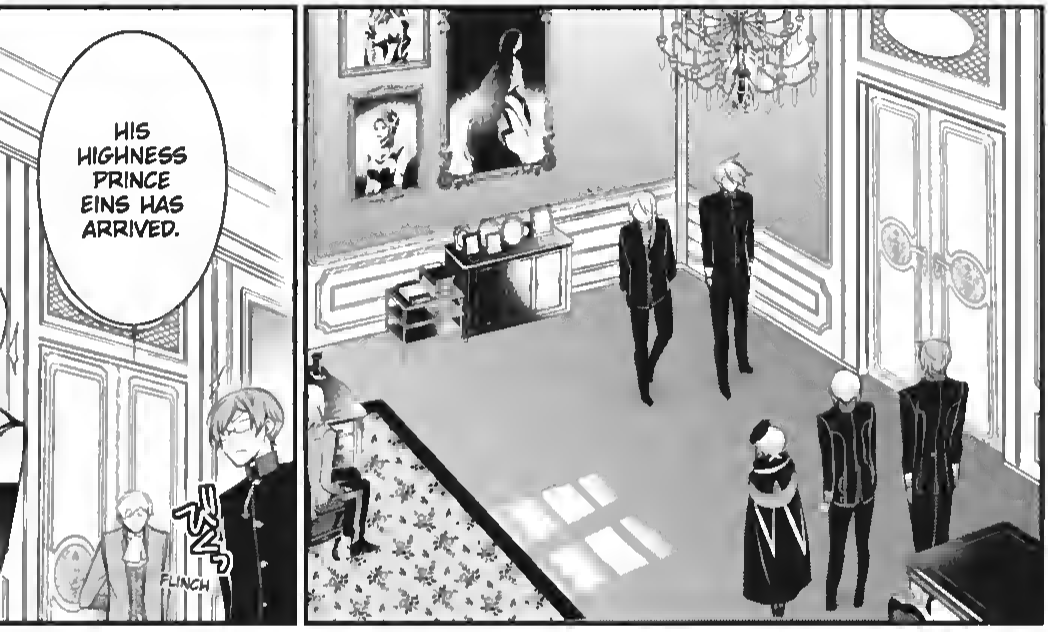

...IF COUNT ROSENBERG SUSPECTS VIKTOR'S CURRENT STATE OF MIND...
...THEN HE WOULD HAVE SUFFICIENT REASON TO SABOTAGE THE PRINCES' PROSPECTS.

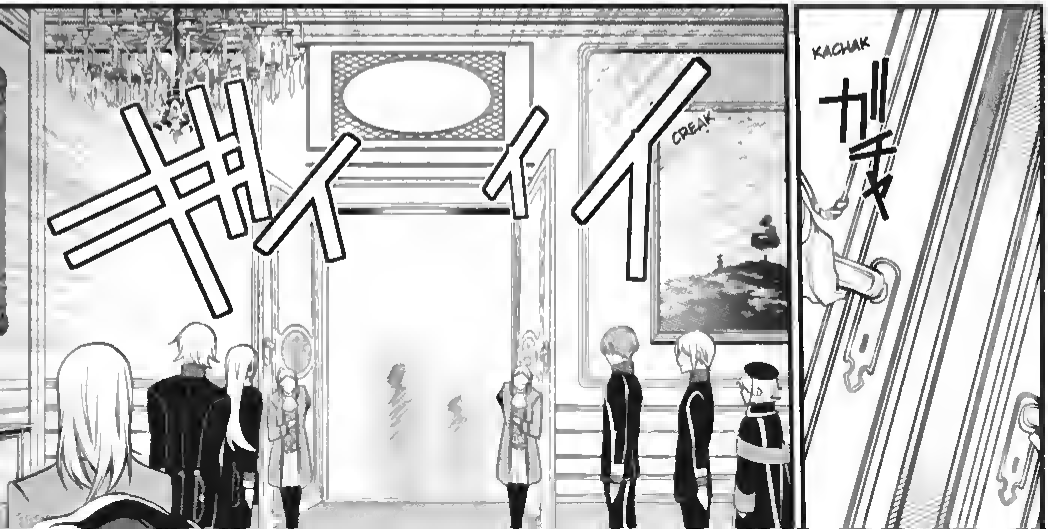
IT'S EVEN POSSIBLE THAT PRINCE EINS HIMSELF GAVE THE ORDER FOR HIM TO ACT...


A TOAST TO OUR FRIEND-SHIP...
...AND THE FUTURE OF THIS KINGDOM.

CLINK
SHWIP
—ERK!
WE'RE ON DUTY! STAND AT ATTEN-TION!
YES, SIR!
WHISPER
WHISPER
I-IT IS THE SORT OF WELCOMING PARTY YOU'D EXPECT FOR THE HEIR APPARENT...
WHOOOA! INCREDIBLE! LOOK AT ALL THESE MILITARY BIGWIGS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS LINED UP, WAITING FOR THE PRINCE'S CARRIAGE!

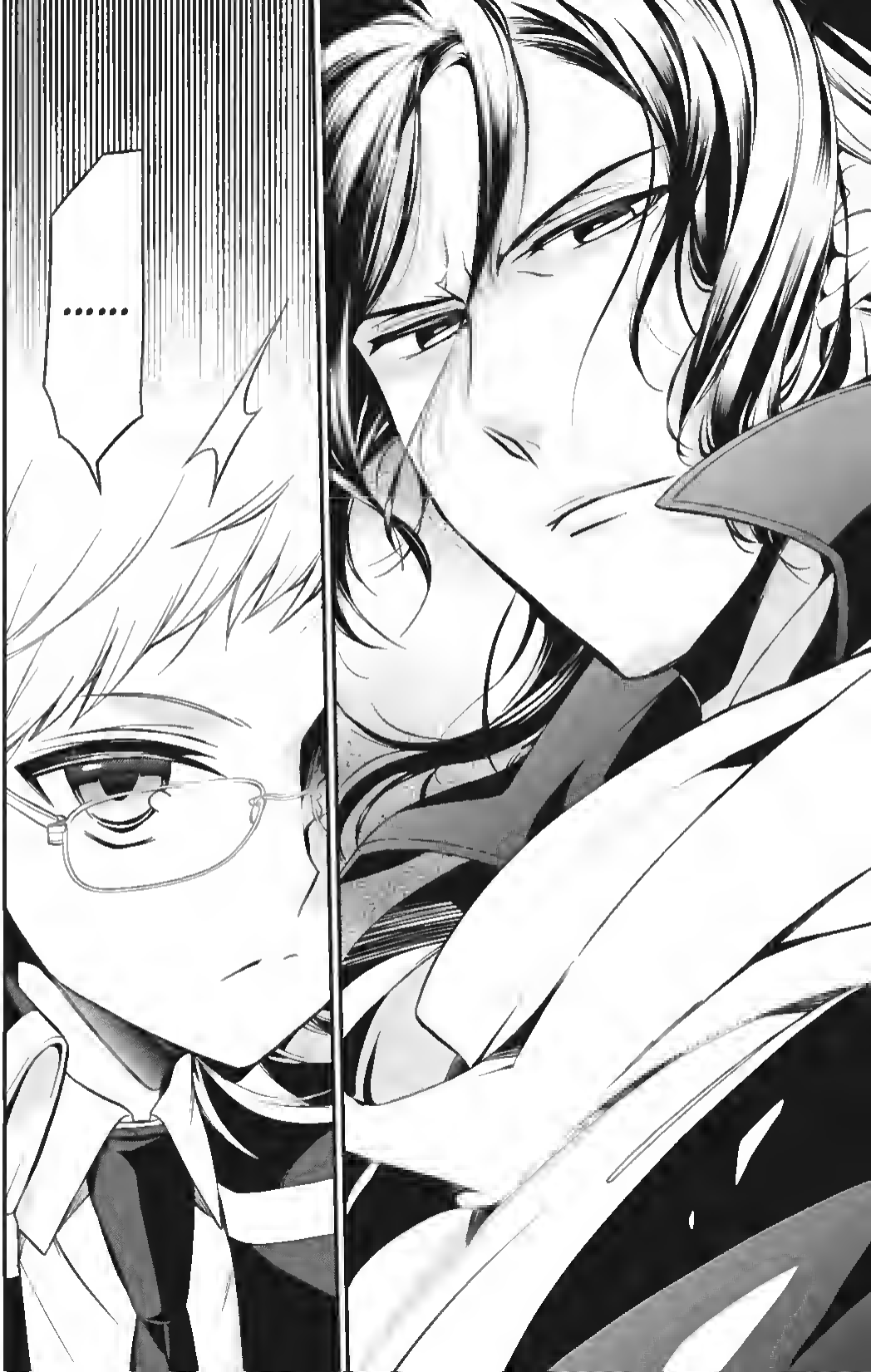
SKSH


HIS HIGHNESS PRINCE EINS HAS ARRIVED.
びく
FLINCH


KACHAK
ガチャ
CREAK
キィィィ

.....
THIS MAN, THEN...
...IS THE FIRST PRINCE OF THE KINGDOM OF GRANZ-REICH...

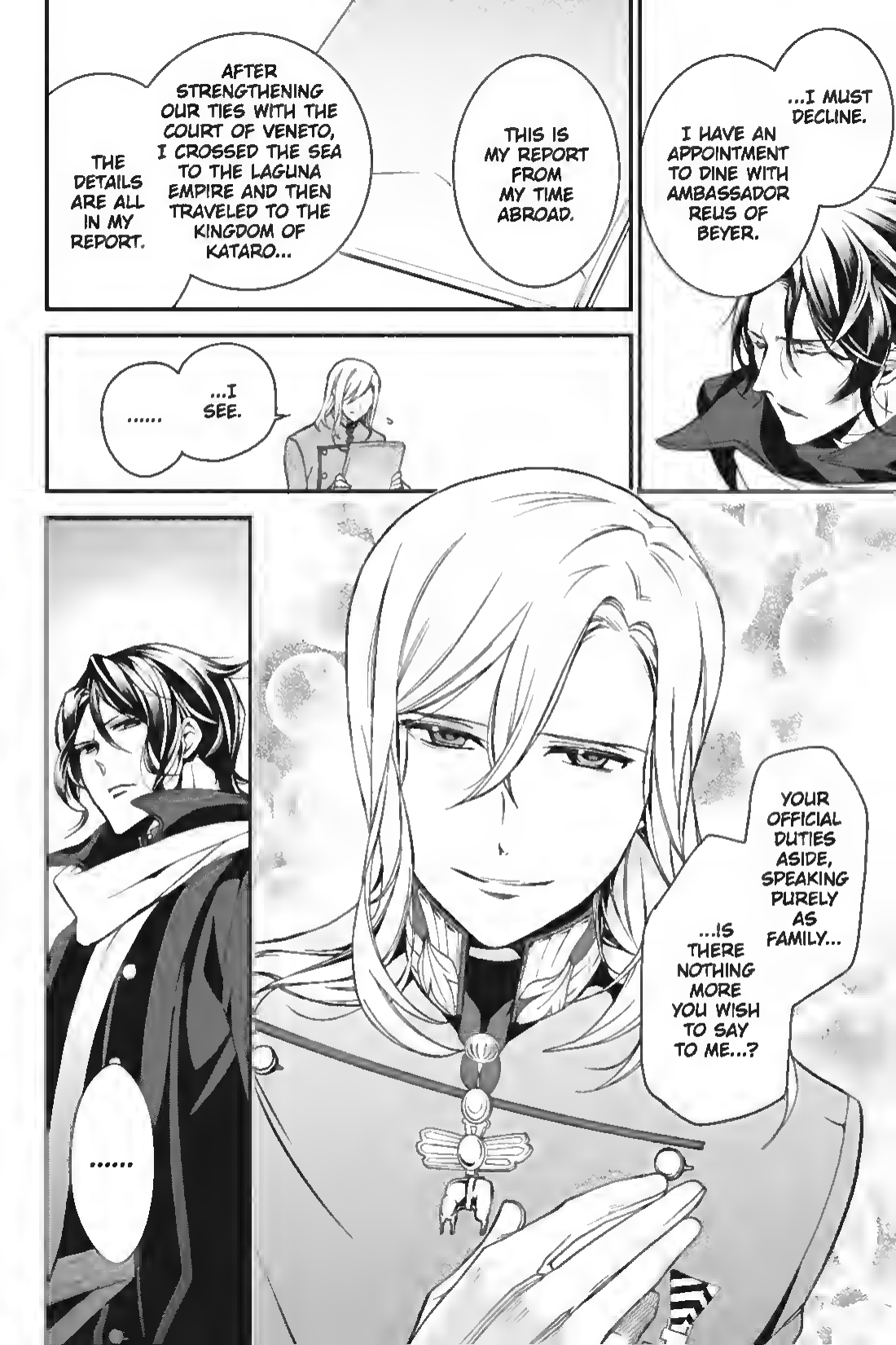
...EINS VON GRANZ-REICH!


……

...WHAT A STRIKING PRESENCE...
THIS IS...
AS EXPECTED, HE HAS A MATURE BEARING THAT IS ABSENT IN HIS YOUNGER BROTHERS...
...A DEMEANOR BEFITTING A FUTURE KING...
.....
"DE-MEANOR" ...?
NO, IT IS MORE THAT HE LOOKS...
STARE
...HM?

FLINCH
YOU WERE JUST THINKING I HAVE AGED FASTER THAN MY OWN FATHER, WEREN'T YOU?
...YOU THERE.
BINGO.
OH, NO, NO... I WOULD NEVER...
I WAS EQUALLY RUDE TO HIS HIGHNESS, JUDGING BY APPEARANCE... THIS IS THE POT CALLING THE KETTLE BLACK.
—KNOW... YES...
FIZZLE
I...I AM A FULL-GROWN MAN, I WOULD HAVE YOU—
HRMPH!
...WHOSE CHILD IS THIS, THEN?

...HIM...?
PIZZLE
WHISPER
YOUR HIGHNESS, HE IS THE NEW ROYAL TUTOR.
I THANK YOU FOR ALL THE WORK YOU'VE DONE FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.
...I AM SO PLEASED TO SEE YOU BACK SAFE FROM YOUR TRAVELS ABROAD.
EINS...
AH...
.....
SMILE
I HOPE YOU WILL RELAX HERE IN THE PALACE FOR A TIME BEFORE GOING ON YOUR WAY.
...AS YOUR FAMILY, WE MISSED YOU TERRIBLY.


THIS IS MY REPORT FROM MY TIME ABROAD.
AFTER STRENGTHENING OUR TIES WITH THE COURT OF VENETO, I CROSSED THE SEA TO THE LAGUNA EMPIRE AND THEN TRAVELED TO THE KINGDOM OF KATARO...
THE DETAILS ARE ALL IN MY REPORT.
...I MUST DECLINE.
I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT TO DINE WITH AMBASSADOR REUS OF BEYER.
...I SEE.
.....
YOUR OFFICIAL DUTIES ASIDE, SPEAKING PURELY AS FAMILY...
...IS THERE NOTHING MORE YOU WISH TO SAY TO ME...?
.....

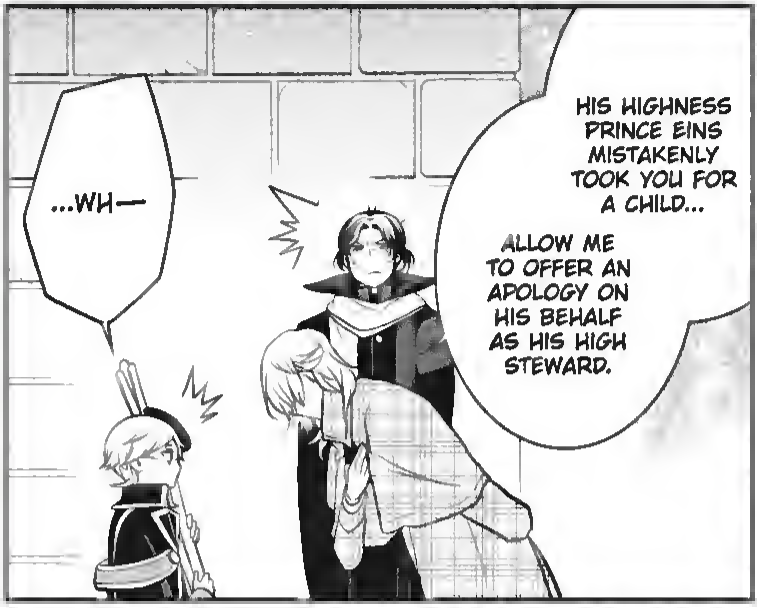
AH...
AHEM! BROTHER!
I BEG YOUR LEAVE, YOUR MAJESTY.
THAT IS ALL.
WE ARE GLAD THAT YOU HAVE RETURNED SAFE AND SOUND.
THIS IS BUT A SMALL TOKEN FROM US...
.....
...TO WELCOME YOU HOME...

SMACK
SUCH CONCERNS ARE UN-WARRANTED.

FLAP
WE'RE LEAVING.
YES, YOUR HIGH-NESS.
STMP
STMP
STMP
SHUT
...MH!

...IT IS WHAT IT IS.
HE IS EXHAUSTED FROM HIS TRAVELS, I'M SURE.
TCH!
WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM? AND WE PREPARED THAT FOR HIM ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE TOO!
.....
PERHAPS, BUT I MADE THAT BOUQUET MYSELF, AND HE...!
I WILL MEET YOU THERE, THEN.
YES, MASTER! WE WILL GO PREPARE.
SHWP
TODAY, WE WILL BE PRACTICING SWORDSMANSHIP IN THE COURTYARD.
...NOW, YOUR HIGHNESSES, IT IS TIME FOR YOUR AFTERNOON LESSONS.

PRINCE EINS SEEMS DRASTICALLY DIFFERENT THAN HIS FATHER AND BROTHERS.
EVEN WITH HIS FAMILY, HE MAINTAINS A... BUSINESS-LIKE AIR, ONE MIGHT SAY.
PROFESSOR!
!!
WHAT A PLEASANT COINCI-DENCE!
WE WERE JUST ABOUT TO BOARD THE CARRIAGE HOME.


...WH—
HIS HIGHNESS PRINCE EINS MISTAKENLY TOOK YOU FOR A CHILD...
ALLOW ME TO OFFER AN APOLOGY ON HIS BEHALF AS HIS HIGH STEWARD.

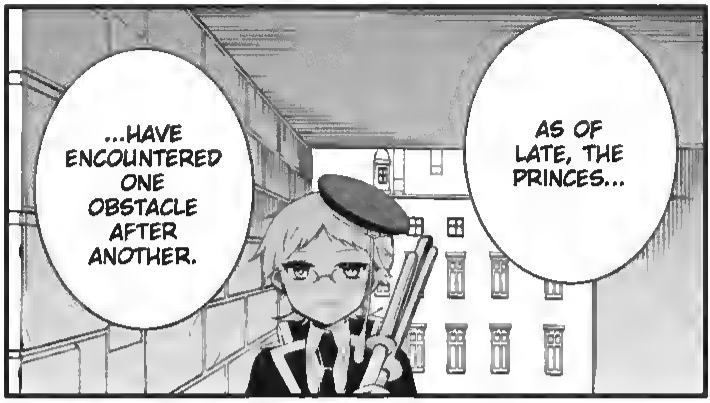
P-PRINCE EINS AND COUNT ROSEN-BERG...!
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL...

N-NO, THAT IS NOT NECESSARY.

.....
GOING TO LESSONS?
EH? AH... YES.

YOU ARE TREATING ME MORE LIKE A CHILD THAN ANY-ONE, SIR!!
NO, THANK YOU!
SHALL I CARRY THEM FOR YOU?
BY THE BY, AREN'T THOSE PRACTICE SWORDS TOO MUCH FOR YOU TO MANAGE AT YOUR HEIGHT?
FUME

...HOW ARE MY BROTHERS?
NOW, IS THIS ORDINARY CONCERN?
...OR IS HE PROBING ME FOR INFORMATION?
NOT AT ALL, YOUR HIGH-NESS...
...IS IT SO SURPRISING THAT I WOULD ASK AFTER MY BROTHERS?
PAR-DON?
.....
I CANNOT BE CERTAIN OF HIS INTENT, BUT I SUSPECT THERE WILL BE FEW CHANCES TO MEET WITH BOTH THE PRINCE AND THE COUNT AT ONCE.
I SHOULD...


AS OF LATE, THE PRINCES...
...HAVE ENCOUNTERED ONE OBSTACLE AFTER ANOTHER.

.....
TO BE QUITE FRANK...

IF YOU COULD SPARE A FEW MOMENTS OF YOUR TIME...
...I SHOULD LIKE TO SPEAK WITH YOU REGARDING THESE EVENTS.
To be continued in the next chapter of The Royal Tutor

The Royal Tutor Chapter 36

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Yen Press
Hachette Book Group
1290 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10104

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First Yen Press ebook Edition: April 2016

ebook ISBN: 978-0-316-27450-0

App ISBN: 978-0-316-27451-7